

<b>Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/776,361	EDINGER, HOLGER	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Thomas A. Morrison	3653	

**All Participants:**

**Status of Application:** Allowed

(1) Thomas A. Morrison.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Mr. Alfred Dassler (Reg. No. 52,794).

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Interview:** 1 December 2006

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Interview:**

- ☒ Telephonic  
☐ Video Conference  
☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

**Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, provide a brief description:

**Part I.**

**Rejection(s) discussed:**

*None*

**Claims discussed:**

*1 and 4*

**Prior art documents discussed:**

*U.S. Patent Nos. 5,779,236, 5,695,043 and 4,412,738.*

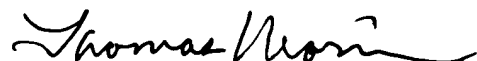
**Part II.**

**SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:**

*See Continuation Sheet*

**Part III.**

- ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.  
☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.



(Examiner/SPE Signature)

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: Contacted Mr. Dassler (applicant's representative) by faxing copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,412,738, 5,695,043, and 5,779,236 and a proposed amendment (copy attached), which better defined claim 1 over the prior art and provided proper antecedent basis in claim 4. Mr. Dassler called back on 12/4/06 to discuss the proposed amendments and references. During the telephone conversation Mr. Dassler indicated he would contact his client and get back to the examiner. Mr. Dassler called back on 12/8/06 approving the proposed amendment to claim 4 and approving the slightly different amendment to claim 1 set forth in the examiner's amendment.

# Proposed Amendment

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for conveying sheets to a sheet processing machine, comprising:

a feed table;

at least one suction belt disposed to be guided over said feed table and to be subjected to suction air from an underside thereof;

said at least one suction belt having at least two mutually spaced-apart rows of suction openings formed therein and a continuous region, substantially without any openings, between said spaced-apart rows of suction openings; and

said feed table having ventilation openings formed therein directly underneath said continuous region between said rows of suction openings, said ventilation openings extending vertically through said feed table so as to directly connect to surrounding air.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, which comprises mutually parallel suction boxes connected to said feed table, said suction boxes communicating with said rows of suction openings for supplying suction air to said rows of suction openings, and a common vacuum source communicating with said suction boxes.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said feed table includes a covering plate covering said suction boxes on top, said covering plate forming a guide for said suction belt.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said covering plate is formed ~~with said rows of suction apertures and~~ with said ventilation openings.

Claim 5 (cancelled).